

[GUARD ASSEMBLY FOR A SECTIONAL GARAGE DOOR]

Abstract

A guard assembly is provided for use with a sectional garage door. The sectional garage door includes a plurality of sectional panels connected by garage door hinges. Each hinge is comprised of a first hinge plate attached to one of the sectional panels with a first attachment, a second hinge plate attached to an adjoining sectional panel with a second attachment, a hinge knuckle extending upwards from the first hinge plate and the second hinge plate, and a hinge shaft mounted within the hinge knuckle. The hinge shaft rotatably joins the first hinge plate to the second hinge plate. The guard assembly comprises a first guard element comprising a first shaft engagement end configured to rotatably engage the hinge shaft, the first shaft engagement end having a first shaft engagement upper surface configured to protrude beyond the hinge knuckle when the first guard element is attached to the hinge shaft. A first plate engagement end is adapted to engage the first hinge plate. A first transition body portion is positioned between the first shaft engagement end and the first plate

engagement end. A second guard element is included comprising a second shaft engagement end configured to rotatably engage the hinge shaft. The second shaft engagement end has a second shaft engagement upper surface configured to protrude beyond the hinge knuckle when the second guard element is attached to the hinge shaft. A second plate engagement end is adapted to engage the second hinge plate. A second transition body portion is positioned between the second shaft engagement end and the second plate engagement end. The second guard element rotates independently from the first guard element.